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TUESDAY

June 19, 2007

Edwards given 100 years to life for killing O'Grady

TAYLOR H. MULLER

NEWS EDITOR

Christopher Edwards was sentenced Friday to serve 100 years to life in prison for the murder of Jessica O'Grady, a UNO sophomore who was last seen May 10, 2006.

Edwards, 20, faces 80 years to life after being convicted of second-degree murder. He was also given a sentence of no less than 20 years for the use of a lethal weapon. The two terms are to be served consecutively, equaling 100 years. He will not be eligible for parole until he has served 50 years, minus the 372 days he has already served since turning himself in last summer.

"The first time he's even eligible is so far from now, I'll be dead," said Shauna Stanzel, the aunt who raised O'Grady. "I won't even be here the first time he's eligible for parole, which is fantastic."

Edwards' defense team said the sentence was "excessive." Steve Lefler, his lead attorney, said he was "of course hoping for a lower number, maybe I'm too much of a bleeding heart liberal."

Edwards was convicted on March 31 of seconddegree murder and use of a lethal weapon. Investigators testified during his trial that O'Grady was murdered with a Bangkok battle sword within his residence. The jury returned a unanimous decision after 11 hours of deliberations.

During the trial, massive amounts of DNA evidence collected at Edwards' residence, including photos of blood splattered across his room and his blood stained mattress, took the stand for a still unaccounted for O'Grady.

"I have not tried to imagine what took place," said Douglas County Judge Russell Derr, who gave Edwards his sentence. "Miss O'Grady's fear and suffering as she died must have been inconceivable."

Edwards did not speak during his sentencing, raising his voice only to reserve his right to silence. However, Edwards' father, Robert Edwards, addressed the court, speaking in defense of his son. He also



photo by Patrick Doty

Shauna Stanzel, Jessica O'Grady's aunt, speaks to the media outside the courtroom on Friday after Christoper Edwards sentencing. Media attention on O'Grady and the trial were one of the reasons defense attorneys for Edwards filed multiple change of venue motions in the first murder case tried without a body in Douglas County.

pledged to match the O'Grady family's \$10,000 reward for any information leading to O'Grady's body.

"We've come to realize that finding Ms. O'Grady is the only way to prove [his] innocence," he said.

County prosecutor Don Kleine disagreed with Robert Edwards' statements, saying "[he] stands before you a convicted murder ... he deserves the maximum sentence the law allows."

members of O'Grady's family who have had to wait more than 12 months for justice, Stanzel said.

"With every part of my being, I want him to say where the body is," said Stanzel. "But I've also said that I will go to my grave not knowing where she's at if it means that he never gets out to harm someone else."

Lefler said an appeal was already underway. For The decision was "extremely satisfying" for now, Edwards has accepted the decision.

Tuition increased at all HPER plans, new degree four state universities program OK'd by regents

SCOTT STEWART EDITOR IN CHIEF



Randy Ferlic

Tuition will increase 6 percent across all four campuses of the University of Nebraska system after a decision

to raise tuition. We understand that it has a real impact on

of Regents Thursday.

students," NU President James B. Milliken said before the regents voted on the increase. "It's not perfect. It's higher than I would like it to be. But, it's a balance."

The regents voted 7-1 to approve the increase. District 8 Regent Randy Ferlic,

who represents parts of Douglas and Sarpy counties, cast a symbolic vote against the measure.

"I would oppose this because I think I want to send a message," he said before voting. "I think that we have to keep our tuition stable."

Ferlic faulted the regents, saying they made by the NU Board did not press hard enough to increase costefficiency. He also cited the pressures of "No one likes student debt and said "student work is out of hand," adding to the burden of large tuition increases.

> Chairman Charles Wilson, who represents parts of Lancaster County, said he was sympathetic with Ferlic's dissatisfaction | Education and Recreation Building. with the increase, but the realities of the budget posed problems.

Board of Regents



Alexander Williams

SCOTT STEWART EDITOR IN CHIEF

The University Thursday to establish degree new program at UNO as well as approve plans to renovate the Health, Physical

The new degree is a Bachelor of Science in Information Assurance, "I would urge passage of this tuition a computer security degree that ties See TUITION: Page 2 together courses from math, physics,

computer science, management information systems, philosophy and criminal justice. The degree will be offered by the College of Information Science and Technology starting this

However, before approving the degree, the regents did question the of Nebraska Board program's proposed incremental of Regents voted expense impact, which listed rows of zeros for the next five fiscal years.

"In the spirit of information assurance, why do all the attachments have only zeros?" Regent Howard Hawks asked before the vote.

IS&T Dean Hesham Ali responded to Hawks concerns by pointing to the external funding received by the information assurance group in the Computer Science Department. This

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Crime Log

COMPILED BY SCOTT STEWART **EDITOR IN CHIEF**

Saturday, June 2

12:01 a.m. Campus Security was notified of a liquor law violation at University Village. Upon arrival ,alcohol was confiscated from a visitor who is residing at University Village.

10:00 p.m. Campus Security was notified by 911 of a burglary in progress at University Foundation property at 6409 Castelar St. Upon arrival, three suspects had been arrested by Omaha police and transported to jail.

Sunday, June 3

1:18 a.m. Campus Security witnessed an alcohol violation via closed-circuit television at University Village. Upon Campus Security's arrival, the resident was asked to dispose of the alcohol and complied.

Wednesday, June 6

11:20 p.m. Campus Security met Omaha police officer in Lot N. Omaha Police Department reported a suspicious person in Elmwood Park now in their custody. Because of the nature of previous contacts with the individual, Campus Security issued the suspect a ban and bar notice.

Thursday, June 7

11:50 a.m. Student reported the theft of unsecured personal property from Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building. The incident occurred between 5:30 p.m. and 5:45 p.m., Sunday, June 3.

Friday, June 8

2:50 p.m. Campus Security responded to a call of shoplifting at the bookstore in the Milo Bail Student Center. The Omaha Police Department was contacted and responded. The first suspect was charged with shoplifting (concealment). The second suspect could not be charged but was arrested by Omaha police and transported to jail for an outstanding warrant. Both suspects were issued ban and bar letters by Campus Security.

Sunday, June 10

4:26 a.m. While patrolling campus, a Campus Security officer observed a vehicle driving recklessly through campus. The driver of the vehicle was identified as a UNO student. Suspect was referred for disciplinary action.

Mays in search of assistant coach

CHAREY REED STAFF WRITER



looking for a new assistant coach. After five seasons as the team's offensive assistant coach and chief recruiter, Doc DelCastillo accepted the position of head coach at UNO's Central Collegiate Hockey Association rival, the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. Announced June 8, the decision

The Maverick hockey team is

ended a several month-long search Doc DelCastillo

sparked by the resignation of former Nanooks head coach Tavis MacMillan in April. DelCastillo beat out three other finalists to become the Alaskan team's seventh head coach.

"The [search] committee went ahead and scored the candidates, and Doc finished first in that scoring,' explained UAF Athletic Director Forrest Karr. "A lot of people involved with U.S. hockey that he's worked with along the way, different coaches that he's worked with, they're all telling me the same thing: You got the right

Joining UNO in 2003 after leaving his alma mater, St. Cloud State University, DelCastillo helped lead an 8-win Maverick team in 2003 to its first ever Nation Collegiate Athletic Association tournament appearance in 2006.

DelCastillo will likely be best remembered for

recruiting Scott Parse, UNO's only Hobey Baker Award candidate, and Bill Thomas, the 2005 CCHA Rookle of the Year.

Mike Kemp, UNO's head hockey coach, praised DelCastillo and the impact he made on the program.

"Doc was a very valued assistant, a tremendously loyal individual and a very good friend," he said. "There's always a very bittersweet feeling when someone who you've worked as closely as I have with Doc for the last five years moves on."

DelCastillo echoed similar feelings about leaving UNO.

"Professionally ... I have to take the opportunity and go to Alaska," he said. "I look forward to the challenge, but it's not easy to pick up and leave a community like this."

The 37-year-old father of five plans to move his family to Fairbanks in August, but will be making his way back to Omaha in November when the Mavericks host their CCHA rivals.

"That's going to be the oddest part," DelCastillo said. "Being at the Qwest Center for the first time and walking on the other bench as compared to walking on the Maverick bench."

Kemp said the search has already begun for a replacement.

"There's certainly been no shortage of people contacting us inquiring about the position," he said. "I'm surewe'llhaveanadequatenumberofqualifiedcandidates.

From TUITION: Page 1

increase, as painful as it is for everybody," he said.

In addition to the tuition increase, the regents also passed their fiscal-year 2008 budget. The budget included a 3.7 percent increase to the university's Tuition Assistance Program, which provides grant assistance for up to 15 credit hours of tuition for students who are eligible for federal Pell Grants.

"We need to do more with TAP," Milliken said. "It is a goal of everyone here to keep access affordable."

Regent Chuck Hassebrook of Lyons, Neb., echoed Milliken's support of providing increased funding for the program.

"I really think it is essential that we expand our Tuition Assistance Program," he said.

Hassebrook went on to say that in the long term, higher tuition rates "undermines democracy," a point also made by UNMC Student Regent Jonathan Henning.

"I believe that [high tuition] is dangerous from a societal standpoint," he said.

After the meeting, UNO Student Regent Alexander Williams said the university needs to work towards receiving more state funding and providing "more opportunity to lobby our senators."

"It's more on us to be able to share the story of the NU system," he said.

However, he did say that while the increase would impact UNO students considerably, he still supported the measure.

"We're going to lose students if we don't make these increases," Williams said. "I think that 6 percent is affordable."

The increase for the 2007-08 academic year matches last year's increase of 6 percent. It translates into an additional \$7.25 per credit hour increase for resident undergraduate students. Nonresident undergraduate tuition will go up \$21.50 per credit hour, to a total of \$430.25 per credit hour.

Graduate students will seem similar numbers, with a \$9 increase for residents and a \$24 increase for nonresidents.

Nebraska GateWay

News You Can Use

COMPILED BY SCOTT STEWART **EDITOR IN CHIEF**

Summer pride, morale effort begins

The UNO Spirit Committee will sponsor a campus spirit day each Friday, where students, faculty and staff are encouraged to dress in Maverick apparel or colors.

"We have re-instituted this initiative over the summer to boost morale on campus," said committee co-chair Marie Lee.

"If you don't have Maverick gear, then wear red, black or white, and show your UNO colors," said Kay Bret, the other committee co-chair.

For more information, contact Lee at 554-2581, Bret at 554-4811 or Marsha Vance at 554-3702.

Library construction Phase II underway

Renovation will continue on the Criss Library this summer with Phase

II, consisting of repairs and upgrades to the existing systems in the current building, as well as new furniture, technology infrastructure and other projects.

Until further notice, the first floor entrance to the library is closed to accommodate construction on the lower level of the library. Patrons should use the northeast and northwest stairwells to obtain access to the lower level.

The Kahn Addition will remain open during renovation. Materials on the first floor include current periodicals, newspapers, microfiche and the information desk. Government documents and archives have been relocated to the third floor.

For more information, contact the circulation desk at 554-3206 or visit library.unomaha.edu.

Shakespeare on the Green comes to campus

The annual Shakespeare on the Green festival, sponsored by the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, will

make its way to Elmwood Park for the 21st time this summer. This years productions are Henry V and Love's Labours Lost.

The festival runs from June 21 to July 8, with performances beginning at 8 p.m. A pre-performance Green Show begins at 7 p.m. and informational seminars begin at 6:30 p.m. The performances are scheduled as follows:

> Henry V June 21, 22, 23, 24; July 5, 7.

Love's Labours Lost June 28, 29, 30; July 1, 6, 8.

In addition, the UNO Alumni Association is hosting a picnic before the July 5 performance of Henry V. The picnic begins at 6 p.m. and tickets are \$12 per person. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and family are all welcome at the event.

For more information or to register, visit unoalumni.org/events/ shakespeare_on_the_green/

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Editor

People

Patrick Doty | People Editor

people@gateway.unomaha.edu | June 19, 2007

Carnival donates cans, gives children summer fun

ASHLEE SCHUETTE LINE EDITOR

Colorful balloons, clowns and laughter filled the northeast corner of Elmwood Park as children rushed to try their luck at carnival games like balloon darts, floating ducks, a ring toss and the moon bounce.

On June 5, members of UNO's Public Relations Student Society of America held their second annual food drive. The drive was held in conjunction with the Omaha Food Bank and National Hunger Awareness Day.

The Kids 'n' Kans Carnival was geared towards attracting children of all ages, said Stacy Seier, a public relations major at UNO and vice president of PRSSA.

"Our goal ... was to give the kids a hands-on-feel for donating cans and feel as though they have actually helped out," Seier said.

Children and their parents brought cash or canned goods in exchange for tickets to play various games or get their face painted. Kids could also participate

> in contests, including a three-legged race and a pie-eating contest.

"I think it's a great idea for UNO," said Kathy Beck, an Omaha resident who attended the carnival. "I thought the fliers were really outstanding."

Beck enjoyed the afternoon at the carnival with her two daughters, Lauren and Alexandra, who asked their mother more than once for additional tickets.

The event attracted nearly 175 people, Seier said, due to strong promotions through PRSSA. She also said it gave the members a lot of valuable hands-on experience.

"It was a good turn-out," Seier said. "The numbers are up from last year. This year we did a lot more promos, like handing out fliers. We were also [promoting it] at the kickoff for the Omaha reading summer program."

One goal of the carnival was to stress the importance of remembering donate canned goods throughout summer months, said PRSSA volunteer

Zach

PRSSA

to it

"It's

"It's really

powerful to

me to be able

to have fun

and to help a

greater need

as well."

there

event

Maharaj,

Abby Supenski, a senior majoring in public relations. Supplies generally run dry at the Food Bank when kids are home from school, she said.

Seier said the event raised nearly \$400 for the Omaha Food Bank. One-and-a-half barrels of food, or 215 pounds, were also donated. Those numbers top the 2006 totals of \$225 and 200 pounds of food.



publications director and coordinator, saw that were enough volunteers and games to satisfy the children. been a great adventure," Maharaj said.

photo by Ashlee Schuette

photo by Ashlee Schuette

Sade Townsell, PRSSA volunteer, helps four-year-old Zachary Ostrander with a ball-toss game at the Kids 'n' Kans Carnival on June 5.

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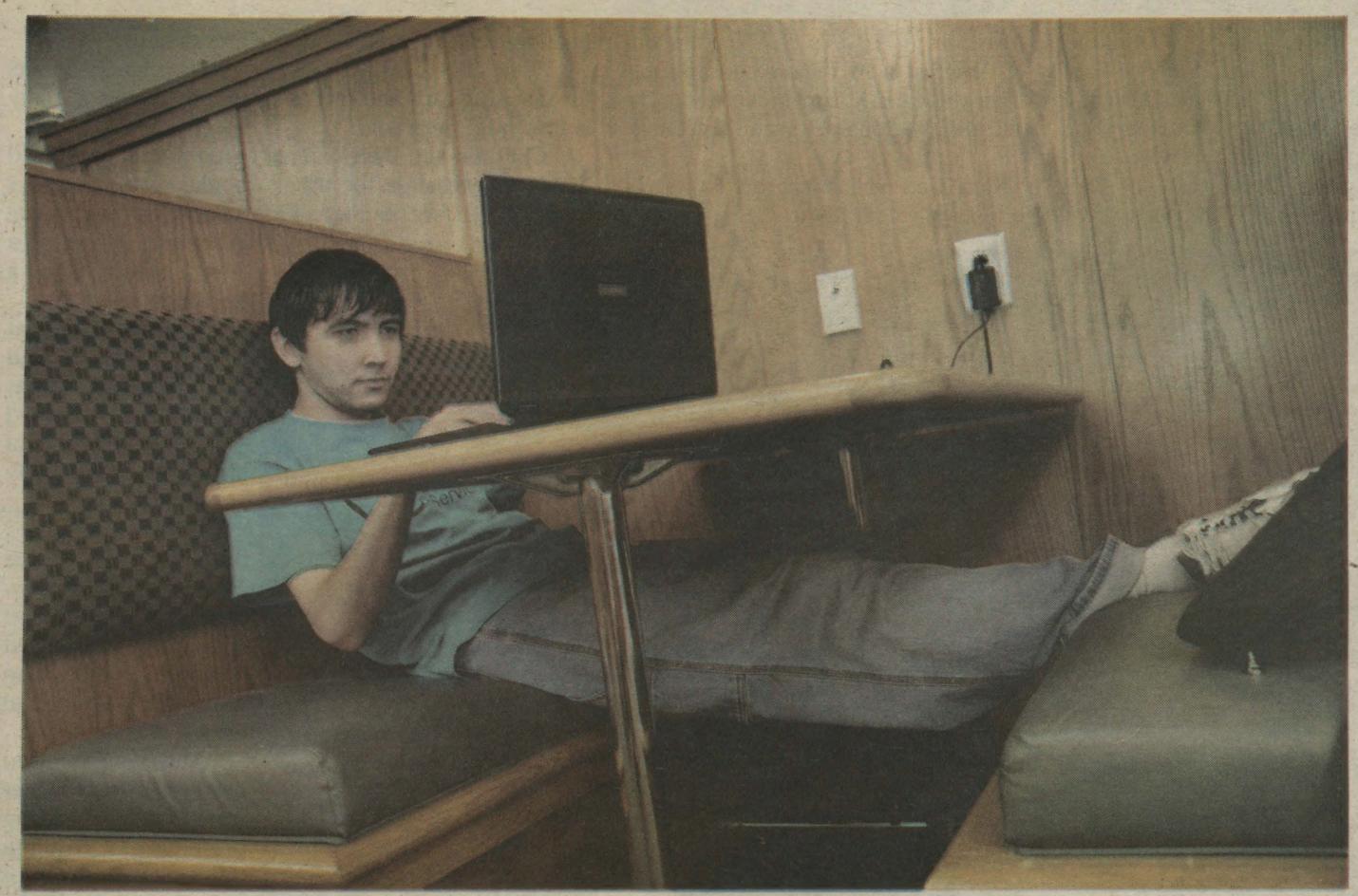
Contact - Scott Stewart

402.554.2352

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Children dressed up as clowns helped run some of the games at the carnival.

Summer in the city keeps UNO community working, playing, studying all over town



The Criss Library is a summer hotspot for students to study, grab a cup of coffee or just relax. At left, Nematullo Rahmonov relaxes in a booth at the Library. "It was a long and hard semester for me," said the economics major. "I just came here to cool down."

The Library is open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays, noon to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and noon to 9 p.m. on Sundays.



Nauruz Alier, right, gets tripped up while playing defense against political science graduate student Chris Cherney. About 20 people gathered at Ak-Sar-Ben Field Sunday night for a pick-up soccer match.



Above, a group of friends share laughs and beer at Starsky's on 13th Street across from Rosenblatt Stadium Sunday evening. The woman on the left is business student Alicia Czyz, and to the right of her are alumnus Kara Jankowski and Mellissa Czyz.



Two workers assess the project that lies ahead of them on the West end of campus. For more construction photos, see page 8.

All photos and captions by Patrick Doty

Arts & Leisure

Charley Reed | Arts & Leisure

Page 5

a&l@gateway.unomaha.edu | June 19, 2007

O! Public Art Project boasts four UNO artists

SALLY BROWN DESKINS STAFF WRITER

Molly Skold, the Omaha Chamber of Commerce's "O!" campaign director, calls UNO students "the potential future of the Omaha community." And she hopes the O! Public Art Project she is spearheading will be just the thing to get them involved.

The O! Public Art Project is the next evolution of the larger O! campaign around Omaha. It features the work of 24 artists who have designed 22 "O!" sculptures. According to the O! Public Art Project's Web site, the O! symbol was chosen because of the increasing popularity of the red O!s stenciled around town over the three years since the O! campaign began.

"One part of getting [students] to stick around is to give the community some quality arts and culture, and I think the O! Public Art Project is one of those things, Skold said.

The O! Campaign and Greater Omaha enthusiastic about the community. Skold brought the idea of locally designed O!s

to The Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts Director Omaha. Mark Masuoka in 2006. With Alegent Health, the project's sole corporate sponsor, the three organizations forged ahead with the venture, choosing local artists to design and build full scale, six foot O! sculptures.

Four of the project's artists are from UNO. Sculptures designed and created by Assistant Professor of Art Wanda Ewing, alumnus Bart Vargas as well as a collaboration between Gary Day, professor of art and art history, and Anna Monardo, associate professor with the UNO Writer's Workshop, are located around



photo by Charley Reed

Chamber of Commerce conceived the project Located on UNO's south campus is the 6-foot O! sculpture created by artist Craig Roper. Entitled to make Omaha residents and visitors "This is Omaha," the artwork was designed to reflect Omaha both historically and visually.

Ewing teaches classes in drawing and printmaking at UNO and is known both in Omaha as well as the nation for her pin-up-inspired prints. Vargas, who graduated last year with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in sculpture, is also well known around town for his creations made of found materials, such as mattress pads and old computer parts. Perhaps his most notable sculpture is "The Nest," made of old computer equipment, in the Criss Library.

The collaboration between Day and Monardo

laurels, this year

Shakespeare

future.

said

be

professor

theatre

"This

we're looking at

the way we use

bit differently,"

Melby Phaneuf,

the Green co-

founder. "We will

have three spaces.

One of them will

have the main

play, and there'll

one for Camp

Shakespeare and

seminars and

a third stage ...

where there'll be

another

Nebraska

year

Cindy

focuses on Omaha residents who moved to the city from around the world. Monardo transcribed while Day painted the residents' stories, which are recorded in 20 different languages, on the sculpture.

All of the O! sculptures were placed throughout the city by the end of May. Each location was chosen to celebrate the many economically and culturally diverse offerings and opportunities that exist in Omaha. Locations near the UNO campus include the south campus at 67th and Pacific streets; Memorial Park at 60th and Dodge streets; and in the Dundee Business District at 50th and Underwood streets.

Skold encourages students to visit all of the O!s as a fun, free way to see quality art in the community.

"Organize an O! trip where you and some friends visit a different O! each weekend,"

she said. "And spread the word, get informed, see why art is so important to the community."

UNO English graduate student Molly Zimmer looks forward to seeing the O!s, especially the ones with UNO ties.

"I'm definitely one to love public art projects, especially those that involve local artists," she said. "I look forward to seeing them all."

Information on the O! Public Art Project and a list of other participating artists can be found at OPublicArtProject.org.

Shakespeare on the Green shaken up for 2007



Gateway Archives

This year's Shakespeare on the Green Festival will feature a "town square" area complete with information kiosks, food vendors and a separate stage for live music.

CHAREY REED A&L EDITOR

The days may be getting as long as they are warm, but it's not officially summer at UNO until thousands of theater lovers invade Elmwood Park armed with bug spray, picnic blankets and lawn chairs for Shakespeare on the Green.

Now in its 21st year, the annual three-week celebration of Elizabethan theater has become one of the most popular summer events in the Midwest.

musical performers."

But that's not all. Kasey Brandt, a UNO alumna as well as the director of education and production for the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, explained that this year's setup would be rearranged with hopes of emphasizing the 'green' of Shakespeare on the Green.

"This year we are definitely tapping back into nature a lot," she said. "That has really inspired a lot of the sets in the designs for the summer."

This year's productions are King Henry V, directed

by Phaneuf, and Love's Labour's Lost, directed by assistant professor D. Scott Glasser. Unlike in previous to rest on its years, the plays will be performed on a circular stage.

Directing her 19th play for the festival, Phaneuf has taken on Shakespeare's story of a boy-king who invades then conquers France. The focus is placed planning for the on the struggles of the main character in his new role as king rather than his success in being able to easily defeating the French.

"We're trying with Henry V to not just say that the English are great because they won," she said, "but really try to look at both the bravery and heroism the space a little and the less-than-brave ways that people act during wartime and try to humanize both sides of the battle."

With Love's Labour's Lost, Glasser has taken one of Shakespeare's earliest comedies, which he described Shakespeare on as a story of "boy gets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl," and re-envisioned it in 1930s Hollywood.

"It's a much more modern play than a lot of the other Shakespeare plays," he said. "It's not driven so much by an old-fashioned plot; it's driven by the characters and their view of themselves in the world."

Brandt expects this year's changes to only add to Shakespeare on the Green's two decades of success.

"We're thrilled to have new and more people come to the park," she said. "I think, really, what most of the audiences will get out of this summer is continuing to see how we are able to change from year to year; to adapt to current things that are happening in our world; as well as looking in fresh ways at Shakespeare, what he was writing about and how that relates to today's contexts."

Shakespeare on the Green runs from June 21 to July 8 with performances of King Henry V from June 21 through 24 as well as July 5 and 7. Love's Labour's Lost will be performed June 28 through July 1 as well as July 6 and 8. Curtain is at 8 p.m. every night with pre-show festivities at 7 p.m. and informational seminars at 6:30 p.m.

In short: CD reviews in under 200 words



A Perfect Murder War of Agression



Damnation A.D. In This Life or the Next



The Bravery The Sun and The Moon

Nu-metal, metal-core, groove metal, thrash metal or just plain metal: no matter how you label it, the newest album from Montreal natives A Perfect Murder is like being repeatedly kicked in the gut ... in a good way.

With song titles like "Enemy of Mine," "In Hell," and "Sadist," War of Aggression certainly isn't for the weak at heart. But, for those who enjoy ripping guitar solos and driving bass lines with very little in the way of the verbal diarrhea, this album is a winner.

Even though War of Aggression could use a little polish, it is definitely a change from the band's older style which was almost a perversion of the word "metal."

Thankfully, War of Aggression gets back to the roots of the genre and is more of the old-school Megadeath and Pantera than the new breed Lamb of God and Atreyu.

If you've had enough of debating labels and just want to get back to banging your head and rocking out, this is an album you shouldn't pass up.

Grade: B

- Charley Reed

I've often wondered what the fascination is with bands that scream so loud you can't hear their instruments, let alone understand what they are saying. Let's be honest; if I'm buying an album, I'm doing it for the music, not because I want to hear someone try and destroy their vocal chords.

Most metal today is hardly worthy of that definition. If Damnation A.D.'s newest album, In This Life or the Next, is any indication, that won't be changing any time soon. The album marks the Washington, D.C., band's return to the studio after an eight year break. Having never heard them before, I wish they would have stayed away.

A lot of screaming and the occasional technically impressive guitar solo are what you get for most of the album's 12 tracks. Even the impressive list of guest spots, including Wes Eisold of Give Up the Ghost, John Henry of Darkest Hour as well as Pete Wentz and Patrick Stump of Fall Out Boy, can't save this from being another run-of-the-mill metalcore release that only succeeds in perverting the genre even further.

Grade: D+

- Charley Reed

If the DNA of Jackie Kennedy, Bono, Morrissey and Jack Kerouac were poured into one beautiful body, that body would grow up to be The Bravery frontman Sam Endicott, the hottest man in rock today.

The Bravery's new album is not nearly as infectious or fun as their self-titled debut from 2005. The Sun and the Moon is not as dance-y and leaves a lot to be desired.

It is definitely a little more introspective in an awkward sort of way. It's kind of like going out for dinner with a one night stand with whom you had amazing, passionate, sex, who then wants to talk with you about tax preparation over cream of mushroom soup. It's a little milquetoast and disappointing. It just isn't what you were looking for when you agreed to the date. You wanted another hot romp.

While I may be a little disheartened by the album, I am not totally dissatisfied. Endicott still has a great tongue in cheek writing style. And it still makes me want to make out with him.

It definitely isn't the best album of the year. However, it is not the worst.

Grade: B-

- Angi Sada

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Tavern quaff 4 Hosts

10 Upon

14 Crater edge 15 Paris museum

16 Libertine

17 had it! 18 Achieve

19 Greek letter 20 Irish county

22 Jet-black to the max

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6/23/07

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"CHiPs" 9 AARP member

10 Pop up 11 Dustin Hoffman

movie 12 Extinguished

13 Potpie vegetable

21 Go back on one's word 23 Ferber and

Buchanan 25 Little fella 27 _ Quentin

28 Opp. of syn. 31 Plenty

35 Balm ingredient 37 Captive's cost

39 Eve of "Grease" 41 Bar in a tub

42 Play division 43 Pair

44 Microwave

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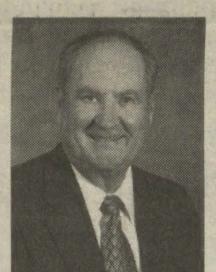
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From REGENTS: Page 1



Howard Hawks

funding exceeds million and includes a of Scientific Research as well as \$2.1 million National from Science Foundation scholarships.

However, Hawks

still requested the numbers be doublechecked for the next meeting.

The regents also approved the \$38.6 million plan to expand and renovate the HPER Building. According to the proposal, construction is to begin July 2008, with project completion scheduled for July 2010.

UNO Student Regent Alexander Williams told the regents that the HPER proposal was something that the student body supported.

"I just wanted everyone to [understand] that our students are property located behind this project," he said. "It's at 6808 Spring St. something that we want financially."

After the meeting, Williams reiterated his support for the expansion.

"I think it is a great advancement of our campus," he said. "I think that it's a great opportunity for our campus."

In other business, the regents approved a salary increase for NU President James B. Milliken as well as salary and position adjustments for

senior administrators Sheri Rogers and Julie Totten at UNO. Milliken received \$6.6 a \$13,791 raise, making his salary million award from \$307,227. Rogers was named interim the Air Force Office senior vice chancellor of academic and student affairs, with a salary of \$150,083, and Totten was named interim vice chancellor for business and finance, with a salary of \$166,135.

> The regents also received a report of personnel actions from each campus for the period between January and March. The report included, among other changes, a pay raise of \$7,500 to Associate Vice

Chancellor Wade Robinson, who took on additional duties and now makes \$119,055.

The regents also approved a leasepurchase agreement for the Chili Greens



Wade Robinson

The property is being purchased from the NU Foundation, which acquired the property on Jan. 13, 2006. The university is paying the foundation \$1,879,666 over the course of five annual installments from 2007 to 2011, which includes 5 percent interest per annum.

The next Board of Regents meeting is a community visit scheduled for Friday, July 13, in Fremont, Neb.

Two Dudes SOMEDAYS I WAKE UP AND ASK MYSELF, "WHY AM I HERE, DUDE?"

WELL, HUMAN NATURE YEARNS TO GROW, SEEKING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ITSELF AND IT'S WORLD. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE IN COLLEGE.



Interest in campus issues Ideals shouldn't be easy essential for students

Sinister Slant

Scott Stewart

be paying around \$262.50 more in campus planned for UNO's near tuition during the 2007-08.

It's likely that a similar increase is in store for us next year.

Additionally, student fees will increase over the next couple years, including a \$95 per semester flat charge phased in incrementally until 2010 to pay off the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building bond debt.

pay for salary increases match rates mandated by the state legislature and other projects on campus.

Even the new \$4 per semester fee that student government created to pay for the Collegiate Readership Program will start to add up.

And that's not even counting the ID card fee, the UPF fees, the technology fee, the library

services fee or other miscellaneous quite as shocking as they should be. course and laboratory fees.

To make matters worse, what happens when the Unicameral decides to slash the university's budget to make way for the next politically motivated tax cut that's only slightly beneficial to the majority of taxpayers?

More tuition increases, more fees, in short more dollars coming out of your pocket to finance your education. Or your brother's education. Or your child's education.

Last week's Board of Regents meeting is a great illustration of the importance of university politics. The regents voted to increase tuition by 6 percent, matching the general trend of the last couple years for increases to tuition. That trend is likely to continue next year, as the goal given by the university's Strategic Framework is to have no more than a 6 percent hike.

In addition to this, the regents confirmed a (likely deserved) raise for NU President James B. Milliken,

The average UNO student will purchased land for a new third future as well as approved the \$38.6 million Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building expansion and renovation project.

There's a lot of money being thrown around, and in the end that money belongs to the students of the university and the taxpayers of the state. It might be a good idea to know where it all is going, to know why the Other increases are likely, too, to university needs more tax dollars or

why tuition keeps going

But yet, more and more it seems like UNO

students aren't tracking what's happening on campus.

students about campus issues can sometimes turn into a less-funny version of Jaywalking. Questions like, "What's a chancellor?" or "What construction?" aren't

I'm not sure what the problem is. Sure, some students are just going to be apathetic, just like in mainstream

society there is always a segment that is politically unaware, uninformed and uninterested. However, UNO's students seem less engaged than the general public sometimes.

And that's no good. After all, we are the future leaders of the country; we are supposed to have an impact on the world. If we don't even know what's going on around us, how can we hope to impact the big picture?

I mean, there are plenty of sources of information on campus. Well, enough at any rate.

The Gateway does a good job reporting the news (and if you disagree, I'd challenge you to come help improve things yourself). University Affairs has been reaching out to students through Facebook and the Maverickland blog, maverickland. blogspot.com. Even the Omaha World-Herald covers the really big events, like the naming of our new chancellor.

If it's not a lack of information, then what is it? The stress of going to class and holding a job? The lack of a feeling of community on campus? That the campus media isn't engaging enough?

As the editor of the campus publication, it's frustrating to ponder these questions and not know what to do about it. Moreover, it's frustrating to not know the root of the problem, so that you can cure the disease and not just the symptoms.

Journalism, after all, is about empowering its readers. It's about defending democracy, promoting truth and creating community.

If students are not reading, or watching, or talking, or otherwise getting the news they need, then it's the campus that suffers. It's also the community that suffers.

And quite possibly students' wallets, too.

Believe it or not, I'm an idealist. I think that if you believe in something it should never be a big deal to explain to

someone else why. It shouldn't be a big

deal that someone else disagrees with you



Angi Sada

be open to discussion. And, when things are difficult makes me believe question

because you

should feel

confidently

in your own

the validity of your own beliefs.

wonder how someone couldn't believe in it. (Please note: This is not a column about global warming.) Knowing this to be an issue that pretty much has three sides - for, against and totally confusedwanted to understand how people on the other side of the issue saw it and how they felt. I also understood this to be an issue, in America, divided pretty clearly by political party affiliation lines. So I decided to ask the small group of conservatives whose e-mail addresses I happened to have about the issue, one of whom told me repeatedly that she didn't believe in the phenomena.

I didn't want to start an argument because, contrary to popular belief, I'm pretty easy to get along with. I'm OK with other people believing differently than I. Of course, I make fun of them, but that is an essential part of my nature; make fun of everyone.

Anyway.

I thought this would be a great exchange of ideas among educated individuals who are politically active around campus and firm in their beliefs. was so excited when I hit the send button. I could hardly wait for their responses.

"Where did your raging idealism come in, dear columnist?" you may be asking, kind readers.

It came in at the part where I thought these people would be excited to share their beliefs with me, to show me their way of thinking so I could better understand it as well as my own way of thinking on the issue.

On another note, my naïveté was

again challenged when driving home on Flag Day, which this year happened to also be my father's 70th birthday (I mean, it's his birthday every year. But this one marked seven long decades on Earth). There was a slew of people standing on the corners of Mission Avenue and Lincoln Road in Bellevue holding signs and waving flags at the stand to cars passing by. As the burly American SUV in front of my little green Honda drove past, a young man in his 20s stood up through the moon roof, waving and those two shouting support right back.

I was disgusted with their signs touting "One Nation. One God. One Language," making their stand crystal clear. I just shook my head and kept driving toward home to collect my kid for soccer.

Driving to soccer, the sign wavers Recently, after watching a PBS were still there when we stopped at the Interviewing special on global warming, I started to intersection. This time they were on my daughter's side of the car. As one of them approached our car to give us a flier, my daughter flipped the guy off and shook her head at them. I joined in. (I never claimed to be Carol Brady or Claire Huxtable. I am little bit more like Benny Lopez from "The George Lopez show." And like they say, "When in Rome....")

One gentleman came over and wrote my license plate number down. More than the hatred for other humans and the diversity that comes with them he was espousing, I was really blown away that he was so intimidated by my daughter's little pink fingernail and the chubby little finger on which it sits.

The truck full of guys was far more intimidating and more animated than either passenger in my car. But, they were in agreement with the sign wavers.

Whereas my daughter - old enough to know that flipping the bird isn't nice (occasionally funny, but never nice), but young enough to still believe this is a nation with liberty and justice for all - and I disagreed and were on the verge of being reported to the authorities.

Why stand on a street corner to stand up for your beliefs if, when questioned or opposed, you are going to get angry?

Standing up for your beliefs shouldn't be complicated, but it should, by no means, be easy. Speaking your mind should always be part of a set of perpendicular roads that must intersect where you learn to respect your own point of view enough to hear other people out.

WRITE TO US!

All readers are welcome to send their opinion or comments to the Gateway. Letters can be sent by mail, e-mail or fax. All letters should include the writer's name, address and phone number. Contact information will never be published. The Gateway reserves the right to reject letters or edit letters for clarity and space. Mail: The Gateway

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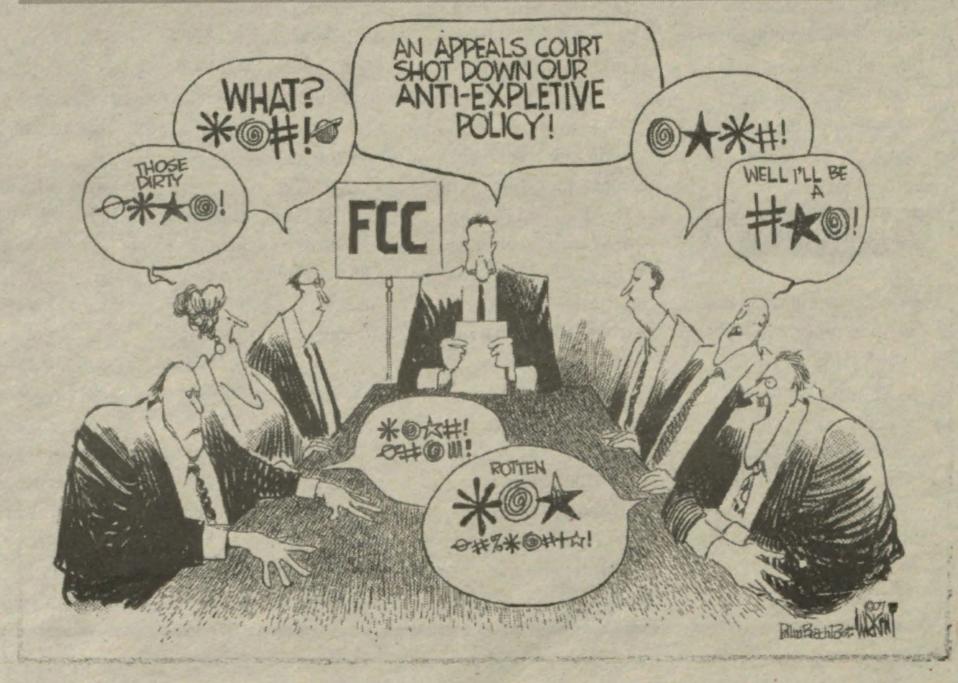
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Letters must be signed using Opinions in columns the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for



Construction commotion keep things heated up with projects across campus

A bulldozer works on clearing out trees and debris in the parking lot east of the recently closed section on University Drive. This construction project is slated to be finished by August, 2008, and will add new dorms and parking to the campus. Other current and future projects include renovation of the CPACS building, the Criss Library addition, the HPER addition and renovation, and the expansion of the Ak-Sar-Ben campus.





Above, a worker takes a swig of water straight from the jug while working on the CPACS renovation in the sweltering heat. Temperatures climbed into the 90s while the crews worked.

Photos and Captions by Patrick Doty

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